

# The City of Marion, South Carolina

## SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for  
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 5, Issue 9

February 2016



### Moore City's Employee of the Month

Officer C. Thomas Moore was selected as the City's December 2015 Employee of the Month. Moore has been employed with the Marion Police Department since July 2014 and graduated from the SC

Criminal Justice Academy in October 2014. He also serves the community and our nation as a member of the National Guard.

Moore is well respected by his peers and in the community. He always gives the department and the City, our residents and visitors, 110% when he's in uniform and on duty.

Moore resides in Marion County with his wife Kensey and their two children. The Mayor and Council recognized Officer Moore for his service and dedication to the City of Marion at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

### 2016 General Francis Marion Celebration



Each year friends and supporters, local businesses and individuals in and around Marion County, come together to present several events in remembrance of Revolutionary War General Francis Marion, the *Swamp Fox*, for whom the City of Marion is named.

The last weekend in February is set aside to offer other activities that bring families and friends together in our historic city. The 6th annual Historic Marion RunFest brings runners not only from the Marion area, but from numerous cities in North and South Carolina, as well. The 7th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook off showcases our culinary talents. This year's activities will be February 27, 2016 and we encourage you to join us for this year's festivities.

The RunFest will again have 5k and 10k races through our Historic District and numerous residential areas.

The Tot Trot will begin at 10:30. This is a fun race for the 6 and under kids and each participant will receive a participation medal!

Please register for the RunFest online at [www.rmssports.com/run.html](http://www.rmssports.com/run.html) or pickup your application at City Hall. Please call Pam Jones 423-5961 for more details.

**After the awards ceremonies head over to the Public Square on Main Street for the 7th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off!**

You will get to taste some of the best chili ever! Wanna try your hand at cooking? Get in on the action and call Al Blake at 843-423-9918 and get your name *in the pot!* **As designated host of the Chili Cook-Off, HMRA will also be holding A CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT!** Please call Al Blake at 423-9918 for details.

### City of Marion Fire Department check smoke detectors

City of Marion Fire Department visits the neighborhood to install and check smoke alarms and batteries of the residents. The Fire Department would like to inform the citizens that they do not have any smoke detectors available, but if they purchase them they would be more than happy to assist them with the installation.

The Fire Department is looking for alternative funding for smoke detectors.

**7TH ANNUAL SWAMP FOX  
CHILI COOK-OFF  
& OLDE TOWNE MARION  
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016 ★ BEGINS AT 12 NOON  
MARION COURTHOUSE SQUARE**

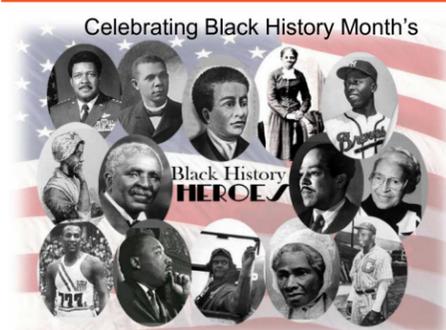
FREE TO ENTER YOUR  
BEST POT OF CHILI!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN  
BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR 2016!  
PRIZES TO BE AWARDED!

ONLY COSTS \$8 TO SAMPLE  
THE WORLD'S BEST CHILI!

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC BY  
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TICKET SALES BENEFIT PARTICIPATING LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Did you know Charles Drew invented Blood Plasma Bag? How about Alexander Mile's invention of the Elevator?

Sarah Boone invented the Ironing board, T. J. Marshall invented the Fire Extinguisher, Joseph N. Jackson the TV Remote Control, Charles B. Brooks the Street Sweeper, J. Standard the Refrigerator, J. W. Smith the Lawn Sprinkler, W.D. Davis the Riding Saddles. Just a little history in Celebration of Black History Month.

## NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

**Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21  
**Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19

**Pam Jones**, City Clerk, Ext. 10

**Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18

**Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11

**Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614

**Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22

**Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410

**Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616

**Chris Smith**, Captain, (843) 423-8616

**Cindy Barr**, Captain, (843) 423-8616

**Tony Flowers**, Investigator, (843) 423-8616

**Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

**Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 464-8602

**Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

**Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

## Birthday Calendar

The Lions Club Community and Birthday Calendar is now available. If you did not get yours and paid for it, please contact Charlotte Hollandsworth at 843-275-9959 or, if you would like to purchase one, they are \$8 each.

We wish to thank all of you for helping us in this much needed and worthwhile fundraiser to help provide eye examinations and hearing aids for the less fortunate in Marion County and other projects like donating to the Marion Church of God Food Bank, Marion County Library, Habitat for Humanity and scholarships.

## Relay for Life

**Tuesday February 16th - 6:00 p.m. Team Rally** at Carolinas Hospital classroom A- wear **RED**.



### February 3rd

8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** hosted by **HMRA**, 103 East Dozier Street. Get up to date information on Gen. Francis Marion Day celebration activities and the ever popular Swamp Fox Chili Cook Off competition. Find out how

your non-profit organization can take part and reap \$100 percent of their tickets sold.

### February 6th

6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. **Parent and Child Valentines Dance** at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym. \$15 per Couple. For more information, call 843.423.5410.

### February 9th

6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

### February 10th

**Ash Wednesday** -Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

### February 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th

4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Marion Baptist Church annual presentation of **Judgment House**, (Revenge - When Rage Takes control), 106 S. Main Street. For reservations call 843.423.9083. Walk-in's welcome. **NOT FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD.**

### February 16th

6:00 p.m. Relay for Life will have a Team Rally at Carolinas Hospital in classroom A. Everyone is asked to wear **red**.

### February 25th

6:30 p.m. Arts Council of Marion County presents a **Gospel Concert**. For more information contact Ms. Janine Jordan at 843.289-5054.

### February 27th

**12:30 p.m. Francis Marion Memorial Day Wreath-laying**, General Francis Marion statue on Main Street. Inclement weather would move this into the C.D. Joyner Arts Center on Elizabeth Street.

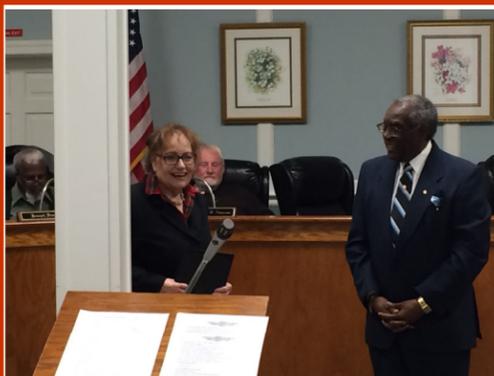
### February 27th

9:00 a.m. **General Francis Marion Day Celebrations**. The 6th Annual Historic Marion Runfest, (Marion Fire Department) 100 W. Bond St, Marion. Contact Pam Jones, 843-423-5961. 12:00 p.m. The 7th Annual **Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off**, contact Al Blake at 843.423-9918 or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org) for details. HMRA will host a **Corn-hole Tournament** in conjunction with the celebrations. Call 843.423..9918 or [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org) for details.

## MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Lucille Lewis of 816 Ernest Drive has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for January 2016. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Ms. Lewis will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.



## Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award

Mayor Davis presented the December Beautification Award to Ms. Elizabeth Wallace because of her hard work and dedication to the City of Marion at the council meeting on January 12th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion.

You can always find her walking down Wilcox, Woodland Ave and Bobby Gerald Parkway picking up litter.

## Marion Chamber Book Project

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will be continuing their Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and Pee Dee Academy a copy of "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer for their personal library. The Chamber is proud of this project to expand our student's knowledge and the history of General Francis Marion.

Over the last four years we have placed over 1600 books in the hands of every third grader in Marion County. We estimate the number of third graders for this school year will be approximately the same. A contribution of \$100 will help us place 10 books or any amount you feel you could give. The books will be delivered on February 25<sup>th</sup> and we will present the books to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on March 11<sup>th</sup>. This year the Chamber will distribute 462 books. A book plate inside each book will identify the sponsors of this project. We hope that you will consider being a part of this program. Your support and assistance will be appreciated. For important on how to donation please contact Cindy Rogers at the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 843-423-3561.

## Voter Registration and Election Commission announces polling location change

The Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission would like to announce a new polling location for all registered voters in the Sellers precinct. All future elections will now be polled at Sellers Library and Resource Center, located at 2635 Main Street, Sellers. The new location is less than a mile from previous location (Sellers Town Hall). All voters in this precinct will be mailed new voter cards along with a map to show new location. For more information call (843) 423-8268.

## Taste of Marion County

The Arts Council of Marion County invites you to attend the **TASTE OF MARION COUNTY "A Date With A Plate"** Tuesday, March 22nd, 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at the Academy for Career & Technology (ACT), located at 2697 E. Highway 76, Mullins, SC. Ticket prices: \$15.00 - Adults, \$10.00 - Children Ages 7-12, and Free - Children 6 and under. Tickets are available at the ACMC Office - Marion Opera House at 100 W. Court Street, Marion Emporium at 405 N. Marion Street, and HMRA Office - 103 E. Dozier Street.

Come sample foods from over 15 of our local restaurants and caterers of Marion County. Enjoy Live Entertainment, 50/50 Raffle and Prizes!!

For additional information contact: 289-5054 or email [artcounciljj@att.net](mailto:artcounciljj@att.net).

## Neighborhood Watch—"A Team"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

We kicked off 2016, with our first meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Davis attended and shared his thoughts on the importance of crime watch. He supports our vision of the city having watch groups in each of our neighborhoods. We were recently reminded of the necessity of neighborhood watch. Over the days leading up to Christmas, our neighborhood experienced several break-ins of homes and cars. One of our members was able to provide the Marion Police Department with footage from his surveillance cameras. Within 24 hours, a patrol officer recognized the suspect outside a home in the area and he was arrested. This demonstrates the need for crime watch and shows what can be accomplished when citizens and law enforcement work together. Please, join us in our efforts to make the Swamp Fox City a safer place to live and work. We meet at 6:30 PM on the first Monday each month at the firehouse on East Bond St. For more information call Dolly @ 843-433-0941.

We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate, thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising.

~Maya Angelou~

## City of Marion 3rd Annual MLK Unity March



More than 200 started the day early with a gathering for the City of Marion Diversity Committee Unity March celebration the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. on Monday January 18th.

The march began at First United Methodist Church with inspiring song and marching down South Main Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to the Door of Hope Christian Church. This year Pastor Stan Gibson of Marion Baptist Church and Bishop Michael Blue were the speakers for the celebration.



Marion Mayor Bobby L. Davis said he was extremely happy with the number of people coming together. "I think this is a beautiful day and thank everyone that decided to come despite

the cold weather," he said. "This is our third annual march and it's just something to bring the people all together. It's not just for the City but for Marion County.

*Photos courtesy of Marion Star Enterprise*



## Relay for Life

We are gearing up for the 2016 Relay for Life. Special events and fundraising will begin on March 4th with a chicken bog, sponsored by Woodmen Life Team. Contact Betty Tindall for tickets at (843) 423-6659. Delivery is available for 5 or more plates. Save the date for the Relay for Life 2016, **Saturday April 30th at Withlacoochee Park**

Time TBA later. For questions or information, contact Debbie Erwin, (843) 260-4483.

## Black History inventor Elijah McCoy (1843-1929)

Invented An Oil-Dripping Cup for trains.

Other inventors tried to copy McCoy's oil-dripping cup, but none of the other cups worked as well as his, so customers started asking for "The Real McCoy." That's where the expression comes from.

## Taco Bell Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Taco Bell had its ribbon cutting on January 19, 2016. Members from Mullins and Marion Chambers of Commerce were present at the ceremony. Taco Bell is located in the City of Marion. It's the fourth restaurant to arrive in the state by Luihn food Systems with another set to open in Lake City on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Taco Bell has hired over 50 regular employees at the new location. Director of Operations Tim Stanzil said "we're very happy to be in Marion County". We had a fantastic day and our sales were better than previously expected." January 18th was first day of operation .

Store hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Monday – Thursday and Friday and Saturday open until 1:00 a.m.

*Photo Courtesy Marion Star Enterprise*

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER .....

**Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center**

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

**Senior Bingo**

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

**Ping Pong Club**

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

**Spring Sports sign ups at Shannon Wilkerson Gym**

Registration has begun at the Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium for 2016 for baseball, softball, t-ball and coach pitch thru Friday February 19th. Registration will be held at Shannon Wilkerson Gym from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are \$21 for city residents with proof of residency and \$35 for out of city residents. Ages are 4-18 years old. Registration requires a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Don't forget to find us on Facebook under "Marion Recreation Department." The site is undated with game schedules, cancellations, photos. Check it out!!

**City Rentals**

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at Marion Recreation (843) 423-5410.

**CDJ Aerobics**

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

**City's Playgrounds**

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

**Withlacoochee Park**

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

**Grice's Recreation Center**

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

**Tilghman Park**

409 Montgomery Street - This is the City's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

**Parent & Child Valentines Dance**

**P & D ENTERTAINMENT LIVE**

**WHERE: SHANNON WILKERSON GYM (ATTACHED TO OFFICE)**

**DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016**

**TIME: 6 - 9 PM**

**COST: \$15 PER COUPLE**

**Shannon Wilkerson Gym**

The Shannon Wilkerson Gym located on 221 Elizabeth is open for the public from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

